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SENATE

S.B. No. 2184

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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To effectively wage a successful battle against poverty, it is important for policymakers and program implementers to be equipped with reliable and evidence-based information at the local level that can be used for tracking the impact of macroeconomic reforms and various policy shocks. In so doing, policymakers and program implementers will have a comprehensive picture of the different dimensions of poverty at a particular point in time, and will be able to identify and implement appropriate interventions. In the process, this can also improve local governance, ensure community participation, and promote transparency and evidence-based decision-making.

To date, various ways of collecting household-level information at the local level have been implemented and used by policymakers and program implementers in the Philippines, but a community-based monitoring system has not yet been institutionalized. This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize a system that will generate necessary, updated and disaggregated data required for more comprehensive poverty analysis and

needs prioritization, design of appropriate policies and interventions, targeting of beneficiaries, and monitoring of impacts overtime. The data shall form part of a nationwide databank that can be utilized by national government agencies and local government units in formulating and implementing focused and targeted poverty-alleviation and development programs, and in monitoring the impacts of these programs on the quality of life of the Filipino people over time. Further, the planning offices of local government units under the advisory supervision of the Philippine Statistics Office will be empowered to conduct data collection at the local level.

Ultimately, the goal of this measure is to aid in eradicating poverty in the country by formulating and executing programs that are truly responsive to the needs of the people.

The passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM,
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Community-
2 Based Monitoring System Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to free the
4 people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,
5 deliver a rising standard of living, promote full employment, and make
6 available an improved quality of life for all.

7 Pursuant to this policy, the State recognizes the need to adopt focused
8 and specific measures that will ensure poverty reduction wherein citizens
9 have access to social protection and welfare programs that address their
10 minimum basic needs. The State further recognizes that a system of public
11 spending that warrants government allocation on areas and populace that are
12 most wanting is necessary in lifting people out of poverty.

13 Towards this end, the State shall adopt a community-based monitoring

1 system which generates updated and disaggregated data necessary in
2 targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and
3 needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions, and
4 monitoring impact over time.

5 This data collection system shall respect the fundamental human right
6 of privacy, ensure data quality, and uphold data protection principles of
7 legitimate purpose transparency, and proportionality.

8 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

9 (a) **Community-Based Monitoring System** (CBMS) refers to an
10 organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating
11 necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program
12 implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering
13 communities to participate in the process. It involves the generation of data
14 at the local level which serves as basis in targeting households in the
15 planning, budgeting and implementation of government programs geared
16 towards poverty alleviation and economic development. This system merges
17 the methodologies used in data collection activities of all national agencies,
18 geo-tagging, and the community-based monitoring system implemented by
19 local government units. It entails a census of households undertaken by the
20 local government units with the participation of the community using
21 accelerated poverty profiling system in the data collection, processing,
22 mapping and analysis of data;

23 (b) **Geo-tagging** refers to the process of adding metadata about
24 government projects to various media and of uploading to a web-based
25 application. This enables the mapping of all areas in the Philippines and
26 allows the government, the citizenry, and other stakeholders to check the
27 progress of projects in real time;

28 (c) **Data** refers to the information to be generated by the CBMS which
29 includes the compendium of localized facts, figures, and maps on the different
30 dimensions of poverty such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation, shelter,
31 education, income, employment, security, and participation;

1 (d) **Repository** refers to the agency tasked with receiving, storing, and
2 managing socioeconomic data; and

3 (e) **Respondent** refers to any citizen who participates as a data-source in
4 the surveys conducted under the CBMS.

5 **SEC. 4. Data Collection.** – A CBMS is hereby established and instituted
6 in every planning office of the city or municipality as an economic and social
7 tool towards the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation and
8 development programs which are specific, targeted and responsive to the
9 basic needs of each sector of the community. The CBMS shall have the
10 appropriate security measures for data protection.

11 Each planning office of the city or municipality is the primary data
12 collecting authority within its locality. For this purpose, each planning office
13 of the city or municipality shall have a statistician, whose primary function is
14 data collection, preservation, and safekeeping of the data retained at the city
15 or municipal level. Further, the planning office of the province shall have
16 statisticians tasked to monitor and manage enumeration activities of local
17 government units under its jurisdiction.

18 The Philippine Statistics Authority shall create additional positions for
19 statisticians to monitor and give advice to the planning offices of the city or
20 municipality and the province, and put in its website the aggregated data from
21 various planning offices all over the country and make the data readily
22 available to the public.

23 **SEC. 5. Periodicity of Data Collection.** – Regular and synchronized
24 data collection shall be conducted by every city or municipality every three (3)
25 years. In the conduct of data collection, the local government unit (LGU) shall
26 receive financial and technical assistance from the appropriate national
27 government agencies.

28 Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, all cities and municipalities
29 are enjoined to collect data at shorter intervals and at their own expense for
30 purposes peculiarly useful to them.

1 Further, the Implementing Rules and Regulations as provided under
2 Section 15 of this Act may provide for a separate period for data collection
3 depending on the needs of national government agencies whose data-
4 collecting functions have been consolidated with the CBMS.

5 **SEC. 6. Role of the Philippine Statistics Authority.** – The Philippine
6 Statistics Authority (PSA) shall serve as the lead advisory body in the
7 implementation of the CBMS. It shall have the following functions:

8 (a) Set standards, develop and review data collection forms utilizing as
9 base the existing CBMS forms used by local government units;

10 (b) Capacitate the cities and municipalities in the collection of poverty
11 data at the local level through the Philippine Statistical Research and Training
12 Institute (PSRTI), in collaboration with state universities and colleges and in
13 coordination with other government agencies;

14 (c) Conduct cross-posting as follow-up capacity building of the cities and
15 municipalities;

16 (d) Monitor the data collection by cities and municipalities to ensure
17 adherence to official concepts, definitions, and standards of poverty statistics;

18 (e) Act as the national repository of all poverty data collected by the cities
19 and municipalities;

20 (f) Process the poverty data generated and submitted by the cities and
21 municipalities;

22 (g) Generate poverty statistics at higher levels that will complement and
23 supplement the local level data; and

24 (h) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the
25 proper implementation of this Act.

26 **SEC. 7. Information Dissemination.** – The Department of Information
27 and Communications Technology (DICT) is tasked to develop institutional
28 arrangements on data-sharing. The Department of the Interior and Local
29 Government (DILG) is tasked to regularly disseminate information relating to
30 activities of the CBMS. The National Statistician of the PSA is tasked to
31 submit an annual accomplishment report to the President of the Senate and
32 the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing collective poverty

1 statistics generated by the CBMS, where identities of respondents, cities and
2 municipalities are kept confidential.

3 **SEC. 8. Storage and Access of Data.** – The cities and municipalities
4 are allowed to maintain their own CBMS database for use in local level
5 planning and program implementation. The PSA shall receive and store all
6 aggregated data gathered by the cities and municipalities to create a national
7 CBMS databank of collated information. It shall undertake measures to
8 ensure the integrity and safety of the gathered information against
9 unnecessary leakage and access by unauthorized persons.

10 Provinces shall have access to their respective local and territory-specific
11 data.

12 **SEC. 9. Prioritizing Social Protection Programs.** – The appropriate
13 national government agencies shall use the data generated by the CBMS in
14 prioritizing timely, relevant and much-needed social protection programs of
15 the government in areas identified to have the highest incidence of poverty.

16 **SEC. 10. Confidentiality of Information.** – The right to privacy of every
17 respondent remains inviolable. The citizen participating in the data collection
18 shall be fully informed of the nature and extent of processing intended for his
19 or her personal data. Participation in all data collection activities is purely
20 voluntary. Notwithstanding Section 4 of this Act, respondents may refuse to
21 answer any question or reveal any information at any point, or terminate data
22 collection activities with no further action needed. The person conducting the
23 data collection shall ask the respondents whether they would like to make an
24 explicit waiver to authorize the city or municipality to disclose their identity
25 and other relevant information about their household to the government
26 agency which provides social protection programs for them.

27 **SEC. 11. Prioritization of Assistance.** – The income class of cities and
28 municipalities shall be considered in prioritizing the allocation of financial
29 assistance to implement the provisions of this Act. Fourth, fifth and sixth
30 class cities and municipalities shall be given assistance in the first three (3)

1 years of implementation of this Act. Thereafter, other cities and municipalities
2 shall progressively be given assistance to ensure its full implementation.

3 **SEC. 12. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – Upon the
4 effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee, hereafter referred
5 to as the CBMS Oversight Committee, is hereby constituted. This Committee
6 shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It
7 shall likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend
8 necessary remedial legislation or executive measures. The CBMS Oversight
9 Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the Chairpersons
10 of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and
11 the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the
12 Senate as Co-Chairpersons; and six (6) members from each House, to be
13 designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate
14 President, respectively. For purposes of determining remedial legislation, the
15 CBMS Oversight Committee shall, within two (2) years after the effectivity of
16 this Act, conduct a systematic evaluation of its impact, accomplishments of
17 the system, and the performance of the cities and municipalities on data
18 collection, and of the PSA on its functions as the lead agency.

19 **SEC. 13. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the
20 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
21 Act.

22 **SEC. 14. *CBMS Council.*** – For purposes of achieving secure and efficient
23 data sharing arrangements between and among concerned cities and
24 municipalities and national government agencies to be used for their
25 particular social protection and welfare programs and projects, there is hereby
26 created a CBMS Council composed of the PSA, DILG and DICT, to be headed
27 by the PSA. The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall define other
28 appropriate functions of the CBMS Council.

29 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90)
30 days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Statistician of the PSA, in

1 consultation with the DILG, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health,
2 Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education,
3 Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Department of Labor
4 and Employment, Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
5 National Anti-Poverty Commission, National Privacy Commission, DICT,
6 Philippine Institute for Development Studies, PSRTI, CBMS Network, League
7 of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and League
8 of Municipalities of the Philippines, shall promulgate the rules and
9 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. The PSA
10 shall work in consultation with the appropriate government offices and other
11 stakeholders from both the private and public sectors in the relevant fields to
12 be covered by the data collection initiative.

13 **SEC. 16. *Transitory Provision.*** – The national government agencies
14 which currently collect poverty data for purposes of targeting deserving
15 beneficiaries to their respective social protection programs shall continue to
16 perform their duties and responsibilities in a holdover capacity for a period of
17 one (1) year from the effectivity of the implementing rules and regulations, or
18 for such period as may be determined by the PSA to ensure compliance with
19 the requirements of this Act.

20 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is
21 held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not
22 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree, executive
24 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary
25 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified,
26 or amended accordingly.

27 **SEC. 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
28 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper
29 of general circulation.

30 Approved,